

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2222
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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VIENNA PLEASE PASS MATTESON USDEL WOMEN'S PREPCOM

YAOUNDE PLEASE PASS DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY DALLEY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UK
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR 33RD GA: PRELIMINARY UK
THINKING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. USUN PROPOSES THAT, PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS REPORTING FOLLOW, TO THE DEGREE FEASIBLE, THE AGENDA ITEMS IN THE "ANNOTATED PRELIMINARY LIST OF ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY" (A/33/100 OF 15 JUNE 1978). IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THIRD COMMITTEE REPS IN NYC DURING JUNE AND JULY WE INTEND TO FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 33 -- 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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- 55 -- HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
- 73, 74, 75, 76, 81 -- ALL ITEMS DEALING WITH
- APARTHEID, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- 80 -- EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF
- NATIONAL INCOME
- 82 -- SELF-DETERMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- 83 -- TORTURE

- 86 -- ALTERNATIVE WAYS AND MEANS
- 89 -- RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE
- 90 -- HUMAN RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY

2. MISOFF MET WITH UK THIRD COMMITTEE REP (EDIS)

JUNE 21 FOR A GENERAL TOUR OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROSPECTS. EDIS SAID THAT HE EXPECTED A CALM GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT THAT THERE WAS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE SOME OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUND RECENTLY WON. HE EXPECTED THE FOCUS TO BE ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) (ITEM 33), BUT NOTED THAT NOT MUCH COULD BE DONE ABOUT AN ANNIVERSARY BUT MAKE SPEECHES. HE SAID THAT PROBABLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRG WOULD COME TO GIVE A HIGH-LEVEL ADDRESS FOR THE NINE. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE SPEECHES MAY BE CRITICAL OF THE UDHR, BUT THAT "FORTUNATELY, IT MENTIONS ECONOMIC RIGHTS, AND WE SHOULDN'T BE DEFENSIVE ABOUT IT."

3. EDIS NOTED THAT THE WEST WOULD BE "RATHER ON THE DEFENSIVE" ON ITEM 76.

4. ITEM 80 OFFERS A CHANCE FOR SOME GOOD SPEECHES, EDIS NOTED, SAYING THAT THE CONCEPTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE FULL RANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL) COULD ALL BE MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SUCH SPEECHES, AND THAT SOME OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF SOME OF THE MORE REPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT NON-ALIGNED NATIONS COULD ALSO BE MENTIONED HERE.

5. ON ITEM 82, EDIS OBSERVED "WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE THE SOVIETS WRIGGLE A BIT, AS THEY ARE A MAJOR OFFENDER IN THIS AREA," BUT EDIS ALSO NOTED, "WE ALL HAVE SOME PROBLEMS HERE." HE THINKS THE WEST NEEDS A RATHER HIGHER PROFILE ON QUESTIONS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO UNLINK SELF-DETERMINATION FROM DE-COLONIZATION.

6. ON ITEM 83, EDIS BELIEVES WE SHOULD STIMULATE THE DUTCH TO PRESS THEIR QUESTIONNAIRE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ACTION AGAINST TORTURE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WAIT UNTIL THE CONVENTION IS DRAFTED, ADOPTED AND BECOMES OPERATIVE. MISOFF INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER US INITIATIVE (A GROUP OF EXPERTS OR A SPECIAL RAPporteur REPORTING DIRECTLY TO GA EACH YEAR) MIGHT BE HELPFUL, EDIS REPLIED THAT IF A SERIOUS EFFORT WERE MADE TO LINE UP SUPPORT IN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS,

AND THE IDEA WAS MORE DEVELOPED, THEN IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.

7. ON ITEM 86, EDIS SAID THAT ALL THAT COULD BE DONE PROBABLY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING "OVERALL ANALYSIS" BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MEETING NEXT YEAR, WAS A PROCEDURAL MOTION SUPPORTING THE GENERAL THRUST OF 32/130, BUT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AS ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE SHOWED MISOFF A PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF SUCH A PROPOSAL THAT THE FRG HAS CIRCULATED AMONG THE NINE. EDIS WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED, UPON FIRST REFLECTION, TO MISOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT SUCH A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION INCLUDING

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AUTHORIZATION FOR THE HRC TO CALL A RESUMED SESSION BEFORE THE GA IN 1979 IN CASE IT FELT NEXT FEBRUARY-MARCH IT COULD NOT ADEQUATELY COMPLETE THE "OVERALL ANALYSIS" IN TIME TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE BY REPORTING TO THE GA THAT YEAR. HE MENTIONED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION COULD PROBABLY GAIN WIDE NON-ALIGNED AS WELL AS WESTERN CO-SPONSORSHIP, AND THAT HIS MISSION HAD RECOMMENDED TO LONDON THAT NO FURTHER

ATTACKS ON 32/130 BE CONSIDERED, BUT THAT THE WESTERN NATIONS SHOULD GO ALONG WITH IT IN A GOOD SPIRIT, HAVING MADE THEIR POINT (AND WON SOME COMPROMISES) LAST YEAR.

8. ON ITEM 89, THE UK FELT THAT A STRONGER RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MORE WORK ON THE CONVENTION WAS CALLED FOR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GAIN SOME ARAB CO-SPONSORS, ESPECIALLY SINCE ISLAM IS SOMEWHAT HARRASSED IN SOME OF THE EASTERN-BLOC NATIONS.

9. ON ITEM 90, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SUB-COMMISSION WOULD REPORT OUT THE TOPIC ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS, BECAUSE THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A CHANCE TO BROADEN OUT THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TOUCH ON ONE OF THE VITAL WAYS IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES ITS REPRESSIVE SYSTEM.

10. FURTHER, EDIS, MENTIONED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO PUT THE SOVIETS ON THE DEFENSIVE EARLY, LIKE WE DID LAST YEAR WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL, BECAUSE SUCH A TACTIC "ABSORBS SO MUCH OF THEIR ENERGY AND LEAVES US FREE TO GET CRACKING AND GET SOME LESS DRAMATIC THINGS DONE." AS SUCH AN INITIATIVE, HE MENTIONED THAT THE UK WAS CONSIDERING A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE RIGHT TO IMIGRATE AND THE REUNION OF FAMILIES, WHICH WOULD BE SEEN BY THE SOVIETS AS A SLAP AGAINST THEM BUT BY MANY AFRICANS AS REFERRING TO APARTHEID, AND THEREFORE BUILD A WESTERN-AFRICAN ALLIANCE ON THIS ISSUE.

11. ON THE QUESTION OF THE MOST SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, EDIS SAID THAT THE UK WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ARGENTINA, BUT THAT BECAUSE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS NEGOTIATIONS UK COULD NOT BE OUT FRONT. HE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA WAS DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE AT THE HRC MEETING THIS YEAR AND DURING THE LAST GA ABOUT BEING MENTIONED, AND THAT THE NORDIC APPROACH ON UGANDA MIGHT WORK WITH ARGENTINA IN CASE SUCH A CONSORTIUM WERE PUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOGETHER AT THE GA.

12. EDIS INSISTED THAT NO MORE THAN A "PASSING REFERENCE" SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAMPUCHEA AT THE GA, "TO NOT DISTURB THE PROCESS." HE SAID THAT SOME WEEKS AGO A CHINESE REP HAD TOLD AN (UNIDENTIFIED) COMMONWEALTH MISOFF THAT THE ORIGINAL KAMPUCHEAN RESPONSE WOULD BE THE ONLY RESPONSE, AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT RESPOND TO THE SYG'S LETTER. EDIS DID NOT KNOW IF THAT IS STILL TRUE, BUT WE NOTED THAT NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE. EDIS WAS WARM IN HIS SUPPORT FOR THE US EFFORTS AT GATHERING RECENT, DOCUMENTED INFORMATION, AND HOPED THAT IT COULD REACH (BY SOME CHANNEL) THE SUB-COMMISSION THROUGH THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION BY MID-JULY IN ORDER TO BE USEFUL THIS YEAR. HE NOTED THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WERE "DRAGGING THEIR FEET" ON KAMPUCHEA, AND WERE "REVIEWING THEIR POLICY." HE URGED THE US TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN THAT THE AUSTRALIANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.

13. EDIS REMARKED THAT THE UK DID NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH ANY NEW HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE INDIAN INITIATIVE, BELIEVING THEY ALREADY HAD ENOUGH OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS.

14. COMMENT: SOME OF THE UK THINKING AT THIS STAGE SEEMS TO BE A BIT MORE ORIENTED TOWARDS BAITING THE SOVIETS THAN TO BUILDING A POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MAJORITY IN THE UN, THOUGH THE TWO ARE CERTAINLY NOT INCOMPATIBLE AND EVEN ON OCCASION TACTICALLY COMPLEMENTARY. BUT GIVEN THEIR GOOD AND OPEN SPIRIT ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, USUN BELIEVES THAT IF SEVERAL STRONG AND IMAGINATIVE ISSUES CAN BE EVOLVED, THE UK WILL GIVE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO US, OR (PERHAPS) TO A NON-ALIGNED NATIONS THAT TAKES THE LEAD. END COMMENT. LEONARD
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